International Weather and Crop Summary

September 10 - 16, 2000

International Weather and Crop Highlights and Summaries
provided by USDA/WAOB

HIGHLIGHTS

FSU-WESTERN: Warmer, drier weather in Ukraine favored fieldwork for summer crop harvesting and winter wheat planting, while light to moderate showers in central and northern Russia provided favorable topsoil moisture for winter grain emergence and establishment.

FSU-NEWLANDS: Mostly dry weather helped spring grain harvesting in Western Siberia, Russia, while farther south in Kazakstan, late-week showers caused some interruptions in harvesting.

EUROPE: Scattered showers maintained moisture supplies across northern Europe, causing only brief fieldwork delays.

SOUTH ASIA: Unfavorable dryness continued in oilseed areas of central India.

MEXICO: Showers increased moisture supplies for corn across the main corn belt.

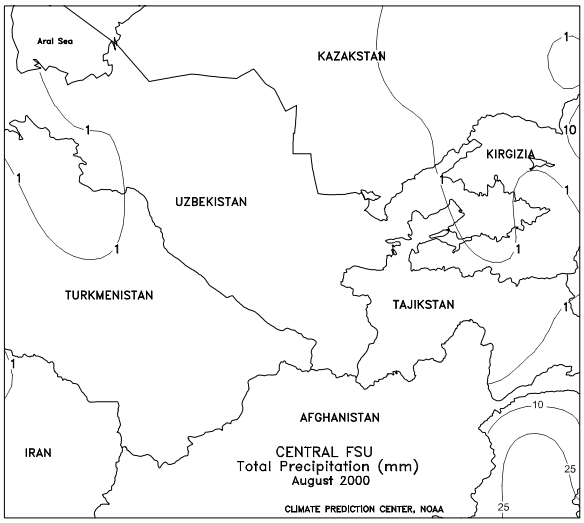
CANADA: Warm, dry weather aided spring crop harvesting across the Prairies, but wet weather kept summer crops in eastern Canada unfavorably wet.

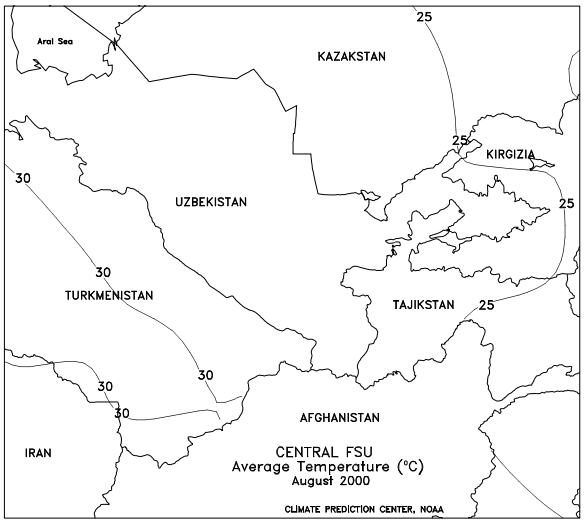
SOUTHEAST ASIA: Widespread showers increased moisture supplies for rice across Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines.

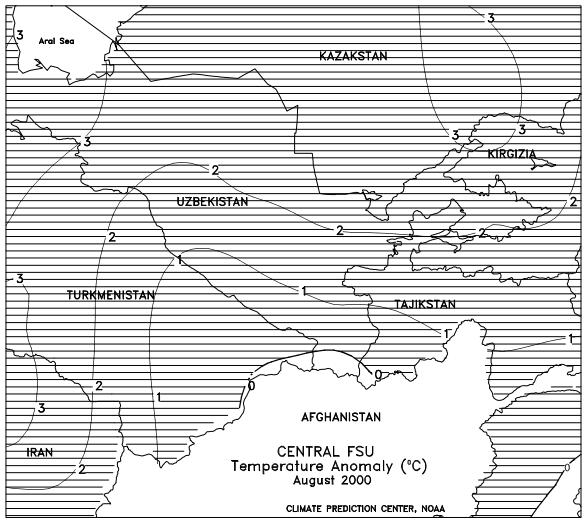
EASTERN ASIA: Across most of China, warm, dry weather aided summer crop maturation and harvesting and early winter crop planting. Heavy showers associated with Typhoon Saomai slowed rice maturation and caused some rice damage across South Korea and central Japan.

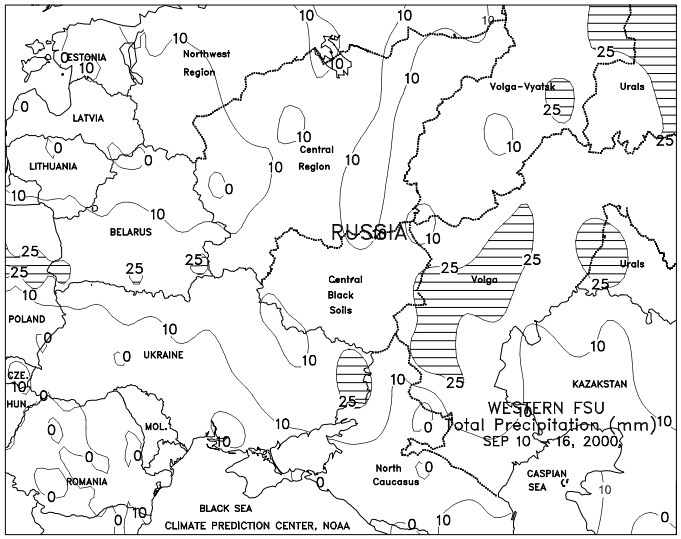
SOUTH AMERICA: In southern Brazil, heavy showers continued to boost soil moisture for summer crop planting, but slowed winter wheat maturation and early harvesting.

AUSTRALIA: Drier, seasonably warm weather hastened winter crop development in the west and southeast.



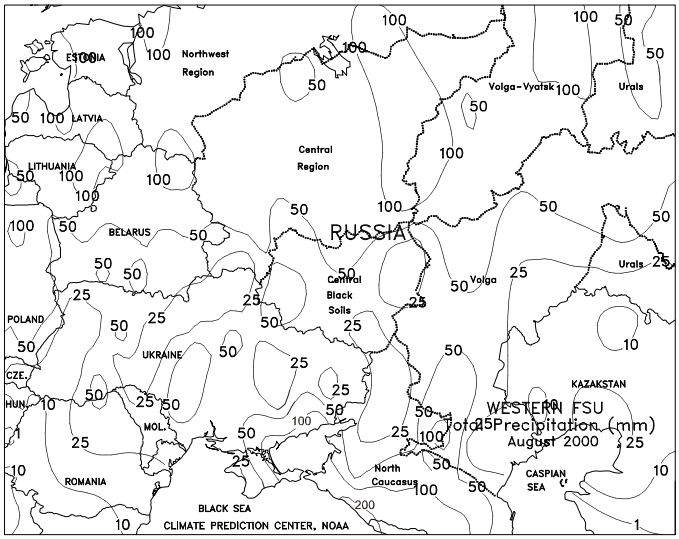


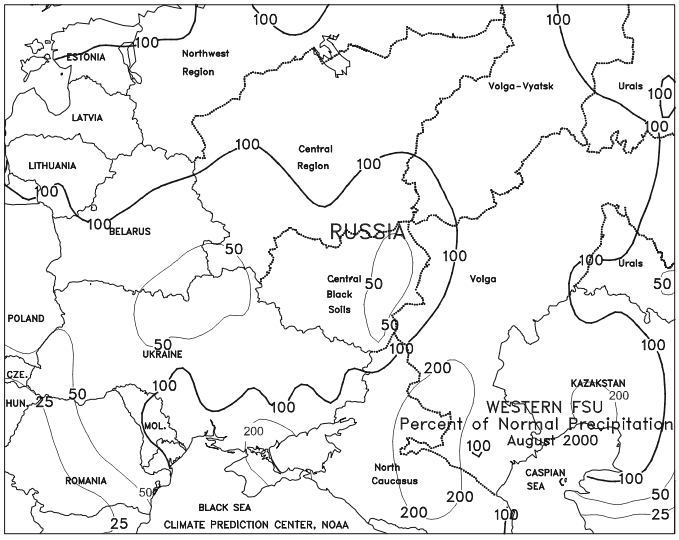


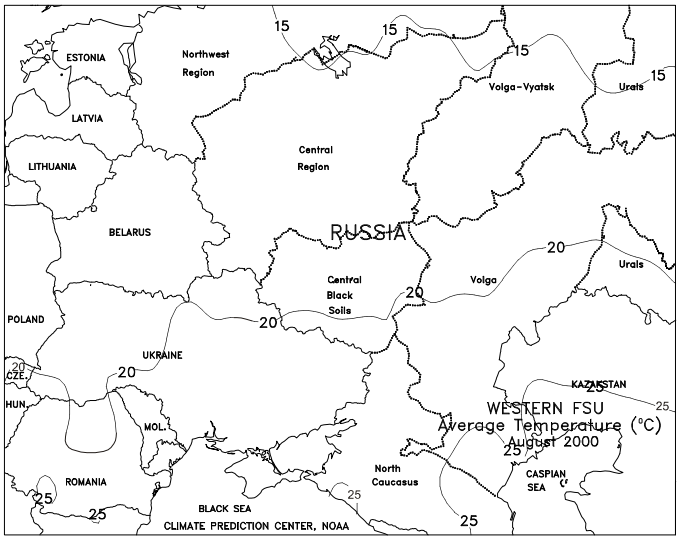


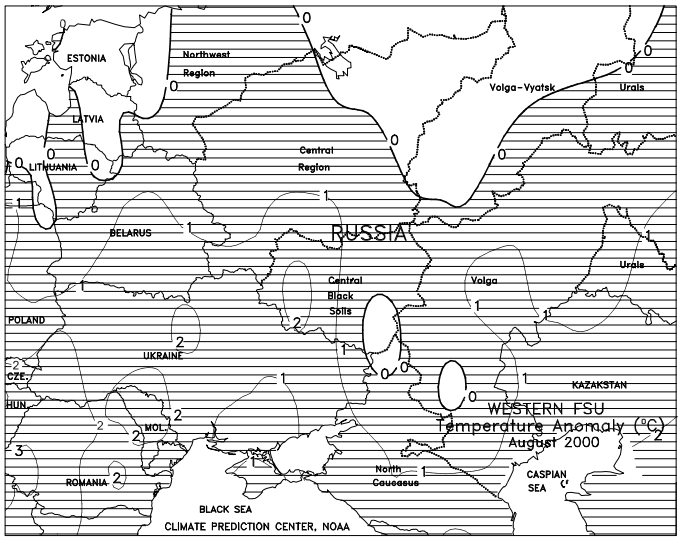
FSU-WESTERN

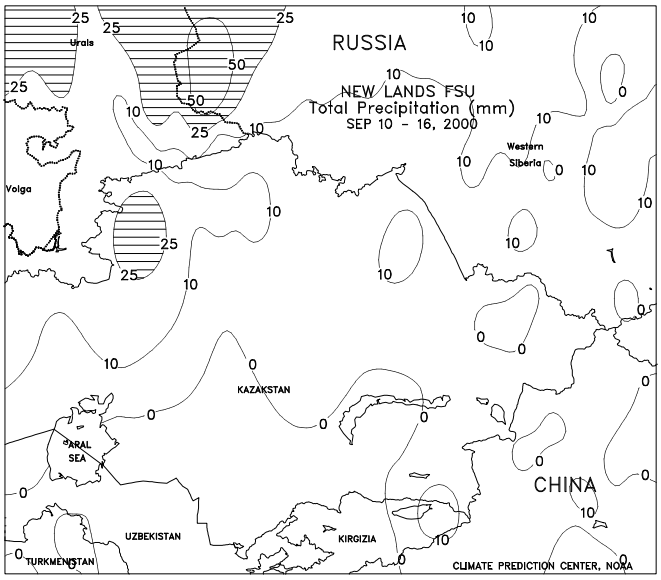
In Ukraine, warmer, drier weather prevailed across the country, improving conditions for corn and sunflower harvesting and winter wheat planting. Recent reports from Ukraine indicated that the corn for grain harvest was just beginning in southern and eastern areas. In Russia, warm, dry weather prevailed over the North Caucasus region, helping fieldwork for summer crop harvesting and winter wheat planting. Elsewhere in Russia, light to moderate showers (10-48 mm) boosted topsoil moisture for winter grain emergence and early plant establishment. Elsewhere, dry weather in the Baltics and northern Belarus helped fieldwork for summer crop harvesting and winter grain planting. Weekly temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees C below normal from the Baltics and Belarus eastward through northern Russia, slowing winter grain development. On September 15-16, scattered frost was observed at several locations in extreme northern Russia, the Baltics, and Belarus, with minimum temperatures falling near or slightly below freezing. The frost was typical for this time of year in northern Russia, but occurred about 2 weeks earlier than usual in the Baltics and Belarus. In August, intermittent showers in northern Russia (Central Region, Volga Vyatsk, and the upper Volga Valley) produced near- to above-normal precipitation, slowing grain harvesting and winter grain planting activities. In Ukraine and southern Russia (North Caucasus, lower Volga Valley, and the southern portion of the Central Black Soils Region), dry weather during most of August was accompanied by periodic heat, stressing corn and sunflowers in the filling stage of development, but aiding winter and spring grain harvesting. On several days during August 19-24, maximum temperatures ranged from 35 to 38 degrees C. The dryness in southeastern Ukraine was especially acute, having persisted since early July. In late August, light to moderate showers eased unfavorable dryness in Ukraine and southern Russia, helping to stabilize conditions for immature summer crops.





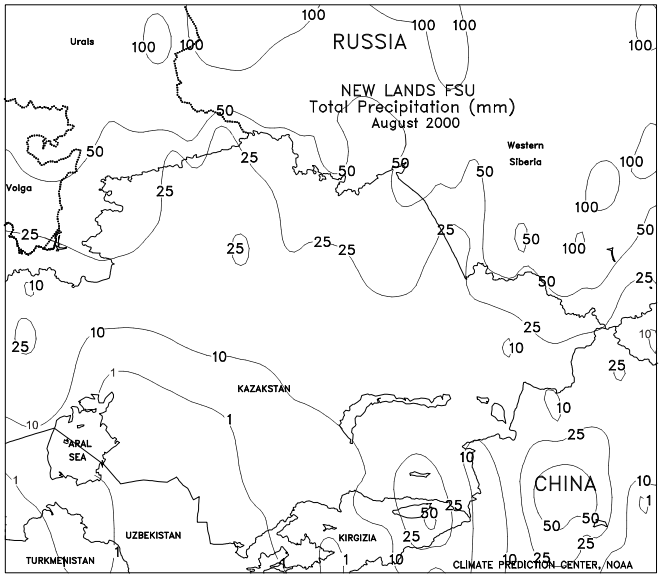


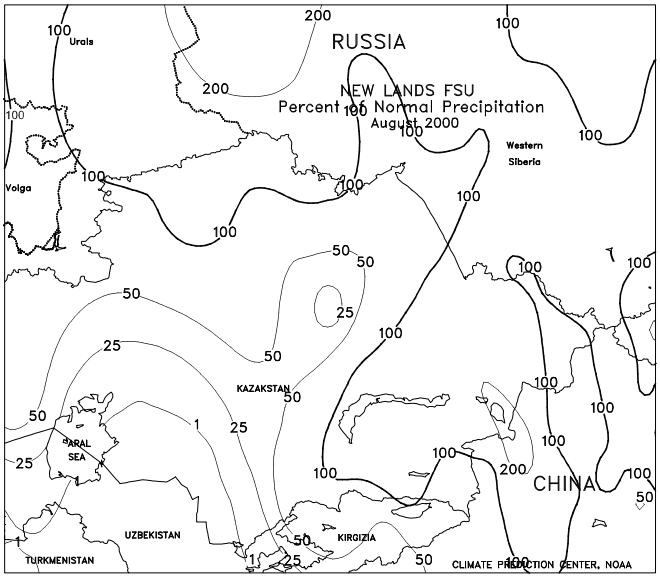


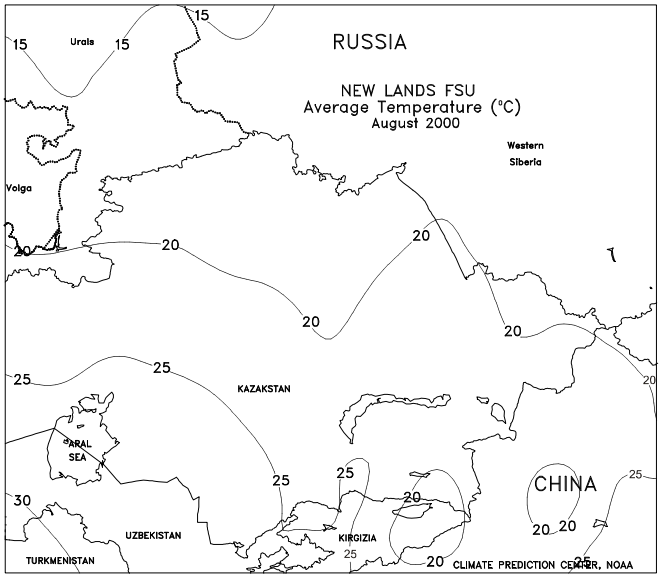


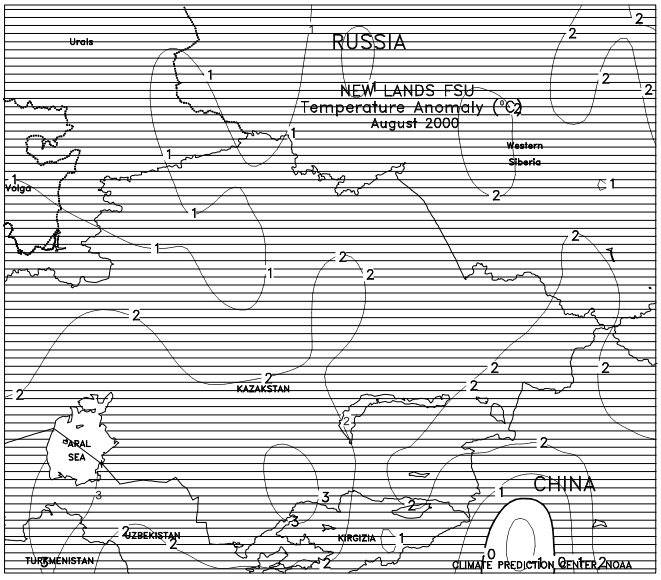
FSU-NEW LANDS

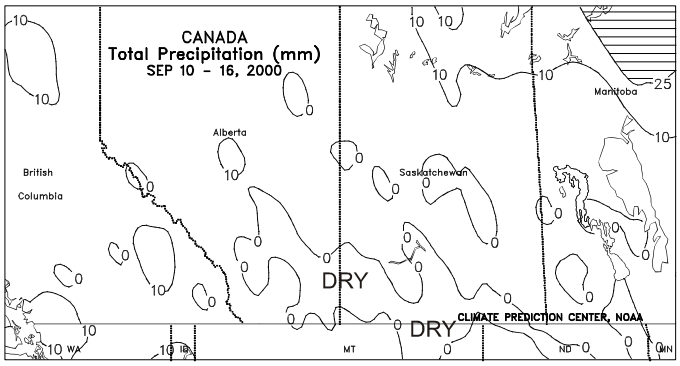
In Russia, continued unseasonably warm, dry weather favored spring grain maturation and harvesting in Western Siberia, while late-week showers (13-42 mm) in northern Urals interrupted harvest activities. Weekly temperatures averaged 1 to 7 degrees C above normal in Western Siberia. At week's end, a hard freeze (minimum temperatures ranging from -3 to -5 degrees C) was observed at several locations in Eastern Siberia, ending the growing season. In Kazakstan, continued warm, dry weather early in the week allowed spring grain harvesting to progress without delays. However, showers (10-30 mm) and cooler weather spread across Kazakstan at week's end, causing some interruptions in harvest activities. In August, near- to above-normal precipitation fell in most spring grain areas, reversing July's unfavorably dry weather. Precipitation increased in both intensity and coverage during the month, improving growing conditions for spring grains in the filling stage. In Kazakstan, hot, dry weather during the first half of August stressed spring grains in the filling stage and accelerated crops toward maturity. In cotton-producing areas of Central Asia, cotton harvesting was underway in most areas. Continued unseasonably warm, dry weather favored boll maturation and harvesting throughout the region.





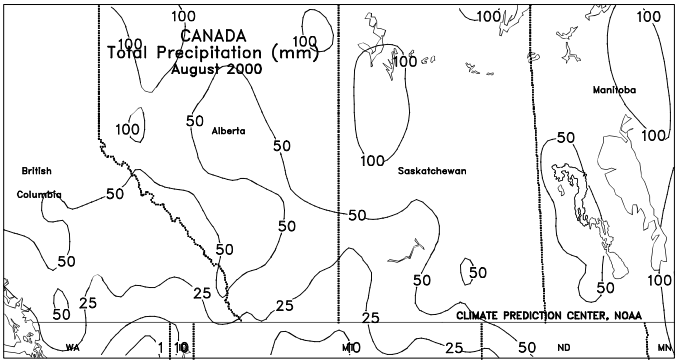


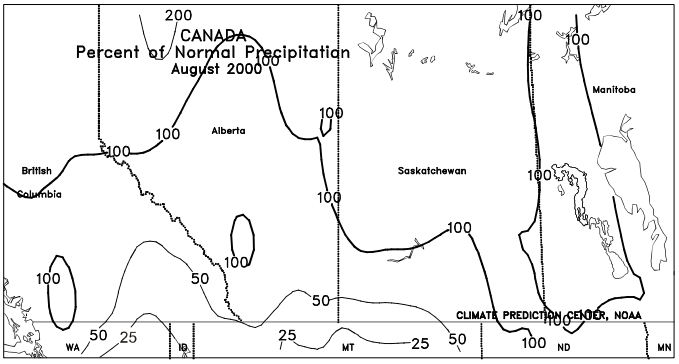


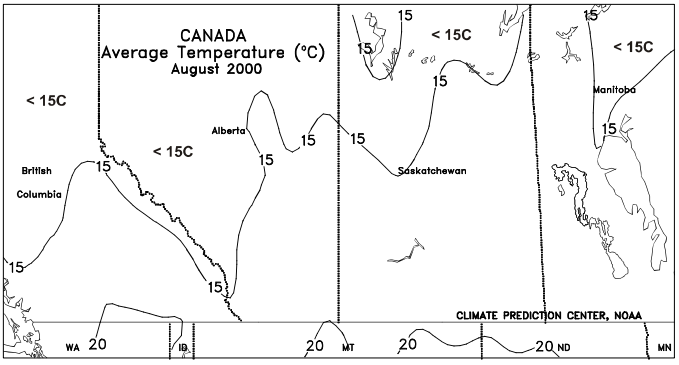


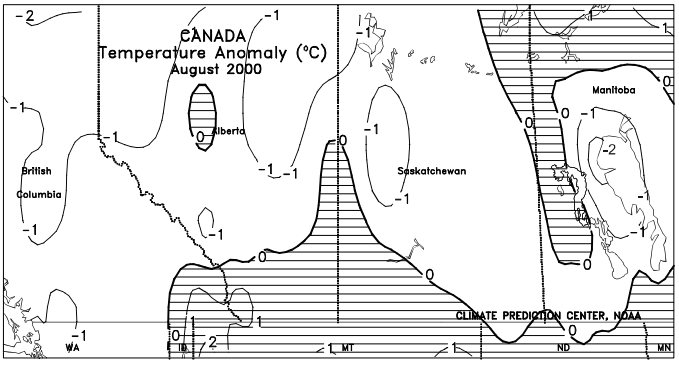
CANADA

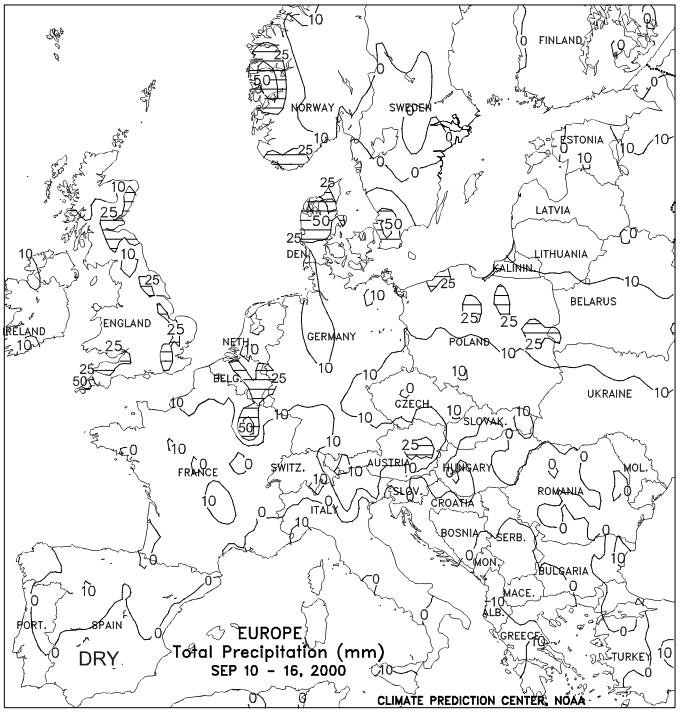
Dry weather dominated the Prairies, aiding spring grain and oilseed harvesting in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Above-normal temperatures (averaging 1-3 degrees C above normal, with highs reaching the low 30's degrees C in central Saskatchewan and the southwest) also aided maturation. In Manitoba, harvest was slowly resuming, following last week's heavy rain, with sprouting reportedly becoming a problem for crops in swath during the downpours. Across the Prairies, temperatures dropped to near or below freezing at most locations, helping to dry down standing grains and oilseeds. In eastern Canada, soaking rain (25-50 mm or more) swept across the summer crop belts in Ontario and Quebec, maintaining unfavorably wet conditions for immature corn and soybeans. Temperatures averaged near to slightly above normal, increasing the risk of disease and pest damage. During August, a drying trend that began at mid-month aided Prairie spring crop development and helped to push the crops toward maturity. On August 31, however, an early freeze in northeastern growing areas may have caused localized damage to immature canola. In Ontario and Quebec, mild, showery weather slowed final winter wheat harvests and hindered corn and soybean development.





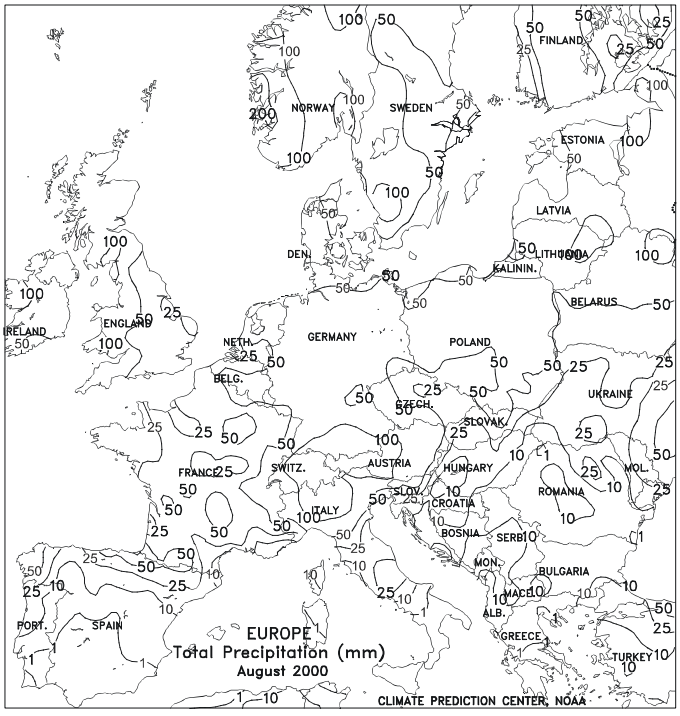


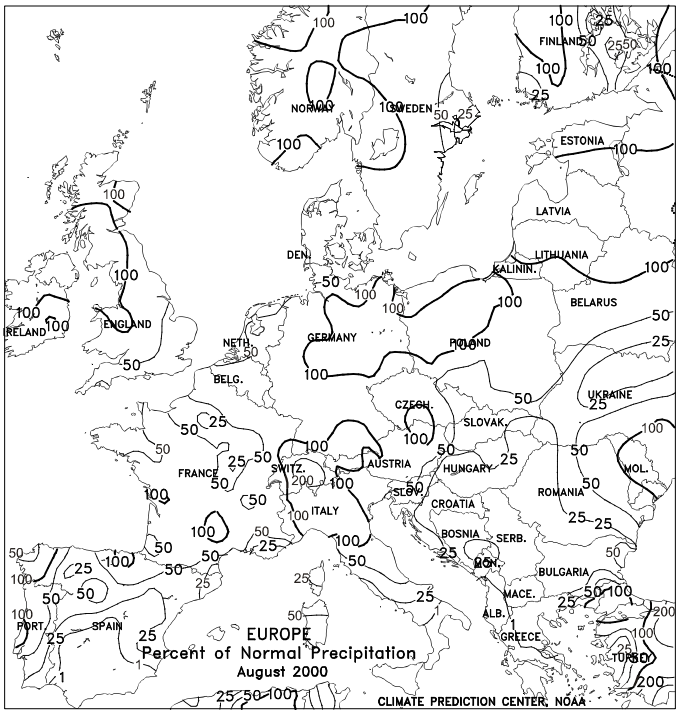


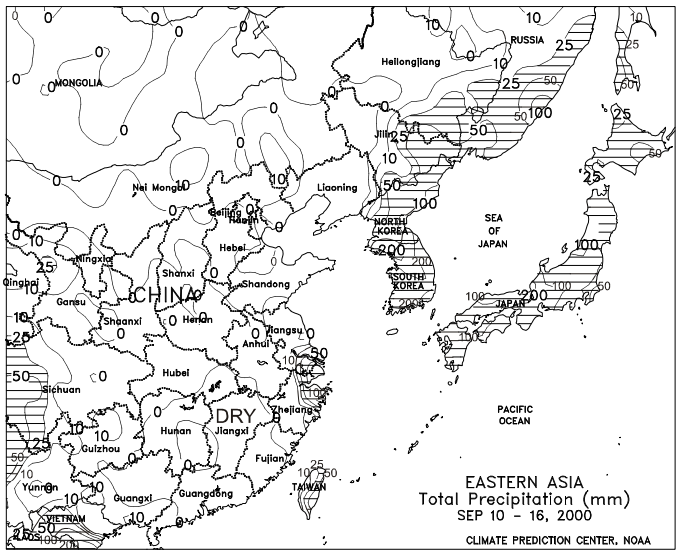


EUROPE

In England, Denmark, and extreme southern Sweden, occasional showers (12-35 mm, locally near 70 mm) hampered late winter wheat harvesting. Similarly, periodic showers (11-31 mm) in the Benelux countries, Germany, northern Poland, and Austria slowed winter grain and oilseed planting, but maintained adequate moisture supplies for early germinating crops. In France, isolated showers (12-50 mm) missed primary corn- and sunflower-producing areas, helping sunflower harvesting and corn maturation. Farther south, mainly dry weather in Spain and Portugal spurred corn, cotton, rice, and sunflower maturation and harvesting. Similarly, dry weather covered all but extreme northeastern Italy, where late-week showers (13-39 mm) likely caused some summer crop harvesting delays. In southeastern Europe, dry weather persisted from Slovenia, Hungary, and Romania southward, hampering winter grain planting and early germination. Unseasonably warm weather hastened summer crop maturation across much of Europe, with temperatures averaging about 1 to 4 degrees C above normal in the east and about 2 to 5 degrees C above normal in the west. During August, near- to below-normal rainfall in western Europe and Scandinavia favored winter grain harvesting; however, soil moisture remained abundant for developing summer crops. In Germany and Poland, frequent showers delayed winter wheat harvesting, but aided filling summer crops. Elsewhere in eastern Europe, below-normal rainfall with periodic heat in the south intensified drought and further reduced yield prospects for filling corn and sunflowers.

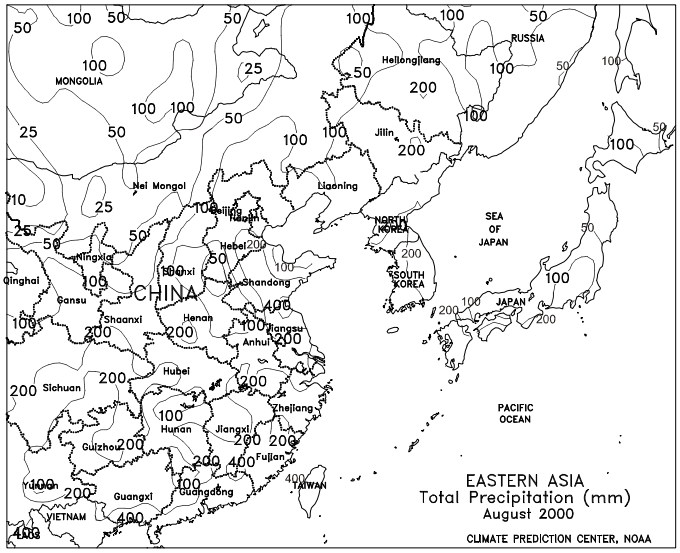


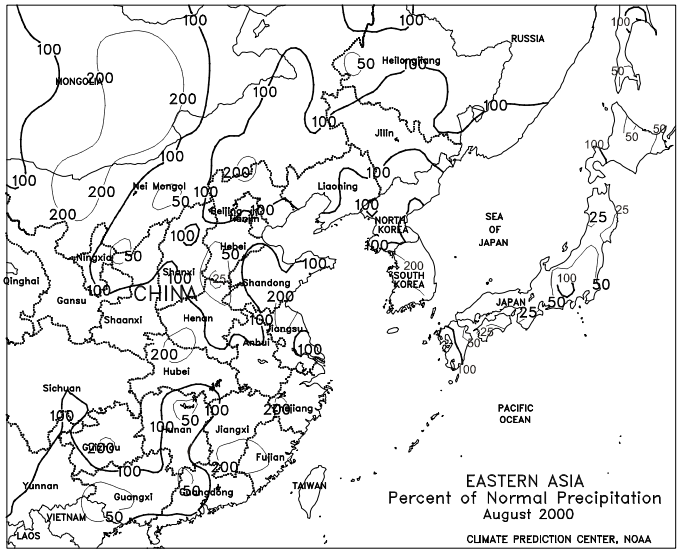


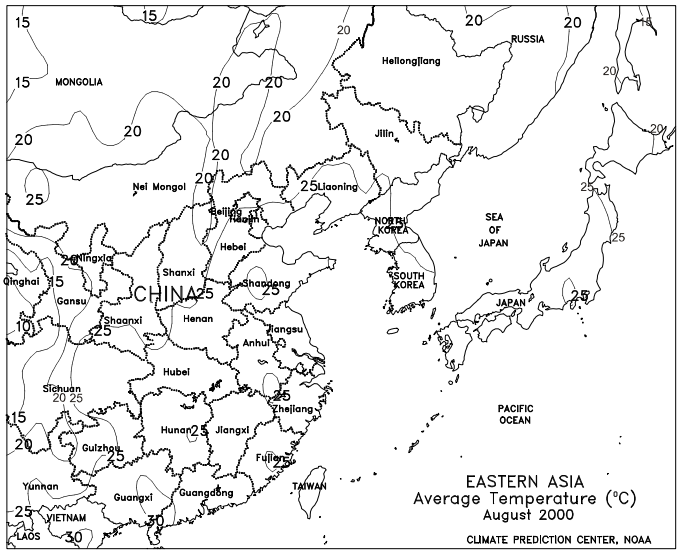


EASTERN ASIA

Across most of China, warm, dry weather aided summer crop maturation and harvesting and early winter crop planting. Temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees C above normal in northeastern and north-central China, with the highest temperatures ranging from 30 to 34 degrees C in the North China Plain. From September 11 to 14, moisture from Typhoon Saomai produced heavy showers (75-200 mm) and flooding across Japan and the Korean Peninsula. Central Honshu, Japan was hardest hit on September 11 by torrential showers (300-500 mm) and associated flooding. On September 15, Saomai made landfall in southern South Korea, with sustained winds of 65 knots (75 mph). The heavy showers slowed rice maturation and caused some rice damage in South Korea and central Japan. Temperatures averaged 1 to 2 degrees C below normal through the Korean Peninsula and 1 to 4 degrees C above normal in Japan. During August, near- to above-normal rainfall stabilized summer crop yield potentials in most of Manchuria. August rainfall was variable in the North China Plain, with near- to above-normal rain in Shandong, northern Anhui, and Jiangsu, but below-normal rain in southern Hebei and northern Henan. In most of central and southern China, above-normal showers maintained adequate moisture for late double-crop rice and summer crops. Below-normal rainfall, however, stressed rice and sugarcane in Guangxi and western Guangdong. Remnants of tropical storms brought much-above-normal rainfall to South Korea, possibly damaging filling to maturing rice. In North Korea, rainfall averaged near to slightly below normal, reducing moisture supplies for summer crops. In Japan, below-normal August rainfall and above-normal temperatures favored filling rice.


EASTERN ASIA
Total Precipitation (mm)
August 2000
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
CHINA
MONGOLIA
RUSSIA
Heilongjiang
Jilin
Liaoning
Nei Mongol
Beijing
Tianjin
Hebei
Ningxia
Shanxi
Shandong
Qinghai
Gansu
Shaanxi
Henan
Jiangsu
Anhui
Hubei
Sichuan
Zhejiang
Hunan
Jiangxi
Guizhou
Fujian
Yunnan
Guangxi
Guangdong
TAIWAN
VIETNAM
LAOS
NORTH KOREA
SOUTH KOREA
JAPAN
SEA OF JAPAN
PACIFIC OCEAN


EASTERN ASIA
Percent of Normal Precipitation
August 2000
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
CHINA
MONGOLIA
RUSSIA
Heilongjiang
Jilin
Liaoning
Nei Mongol
Beijing
Tianjin
Hebei
Ningxia
Shanxi
Shandong
Qinghai
Gansu
Shaanxi
Henan
Jiangsu
Anhui
Hubei
Sichuan
Zhejiang
Hunan
Jiangxi
Guizhou
Fujian
Yunnan
Guangxi
Guangdong
TAIWAN
VIETNAM
LAOS
NORTH KOREA
SOUTH KOREA
JAPAN
SEA OF JAPAN
PACIFIC OCEAN


EASTERN ASIA
Average Temperature (°C)
August 2000
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
CHINA
MONGOLIA
RUSSIA
Heilongjiang
Jilin
Liaoning
Nei Mongol
Beijing
Tianjin
Hebei
Ningxia
Shanxi
Shandong
Qinghai
Gansu
Shaanxi
Henan
Jiangsu
Anhui
Hubei
Sichuan
Zhejiang
Hunan
Jiangxi
Guizhou
Fujian
Yunnan
Guangxi
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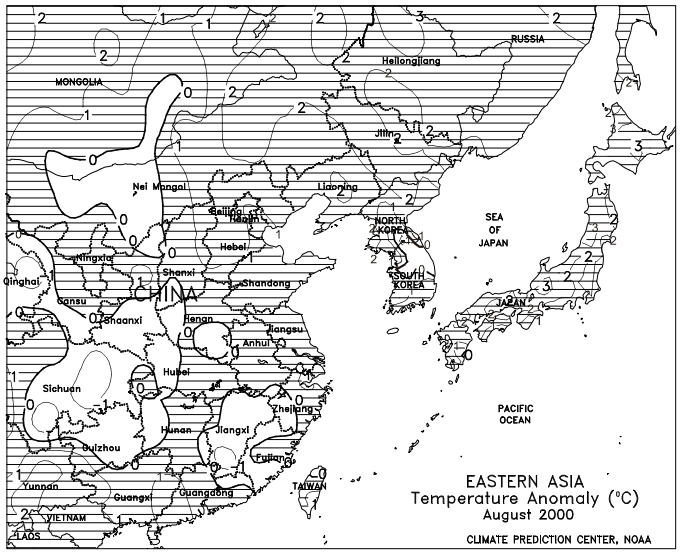
SOUTH KOREA
JAPAN
SEA OF JAPAN
PACIFIC OCEAN


EASTERN ASIA
Temperature Anomaly (°C)
August 2000
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
CHINA
MONGOLIA
RUSSIA
Heilongjiang
Jilin
Liaoning
Nei Mongol
Beijing
Tianjin
Hebei
Ningxia
Shanxi
Shandong
Qinghai
Gansu
Shaanxi
Henan
Jiangsu
Anhui
Hubei
Sichuan
Zhejiang
Hunan
Jiangxi
Guizhou
Fujian
Yunnan
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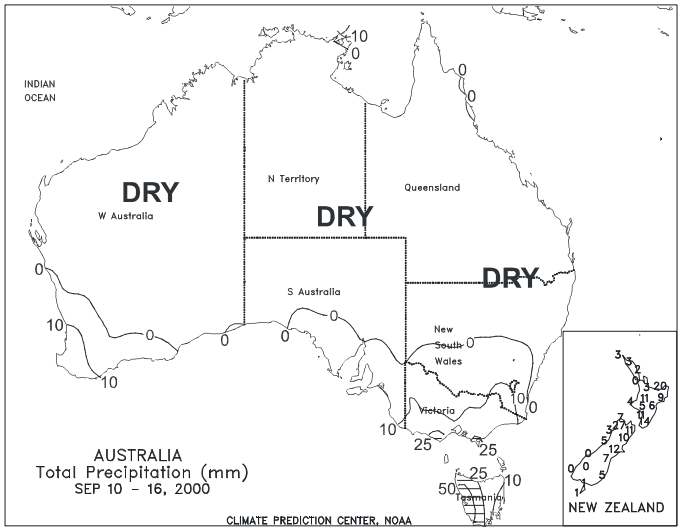
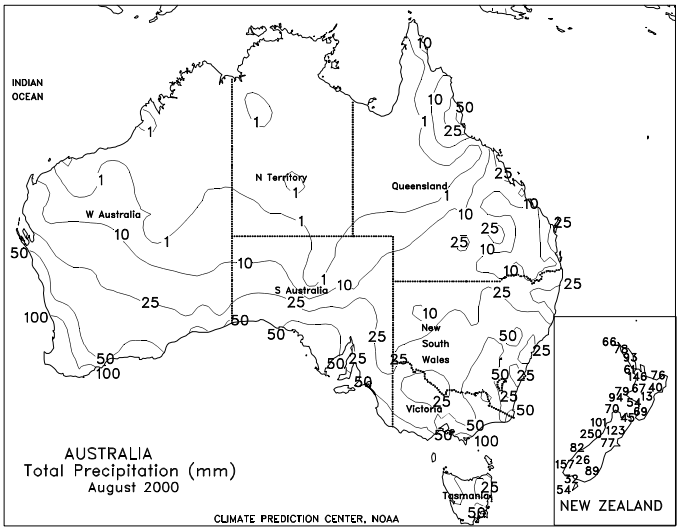
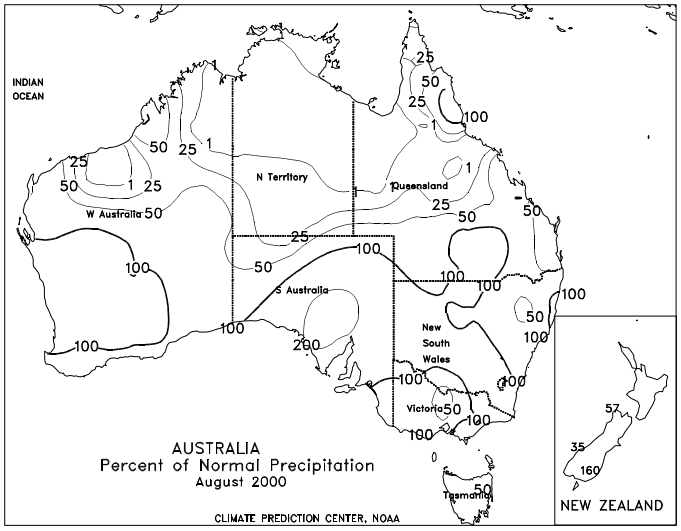
JAPAN
SEA OF JAPAN
PACIFIC OCEAN

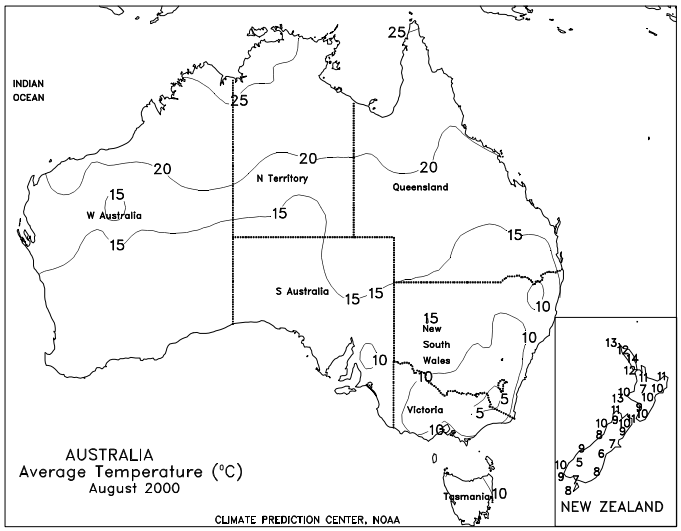


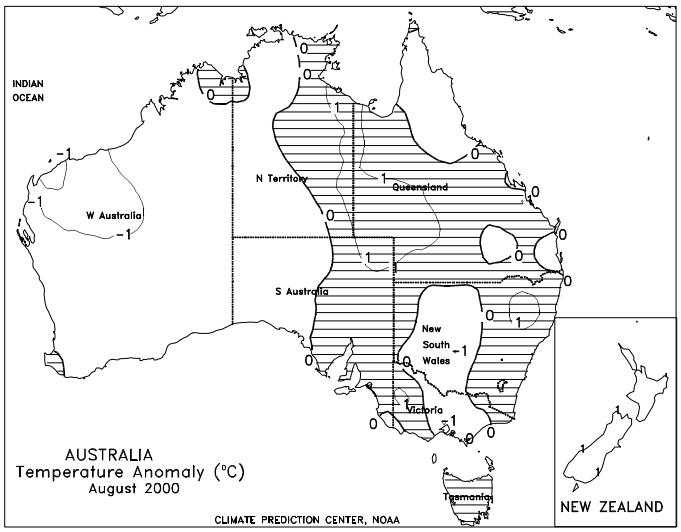
AUSTRALIA

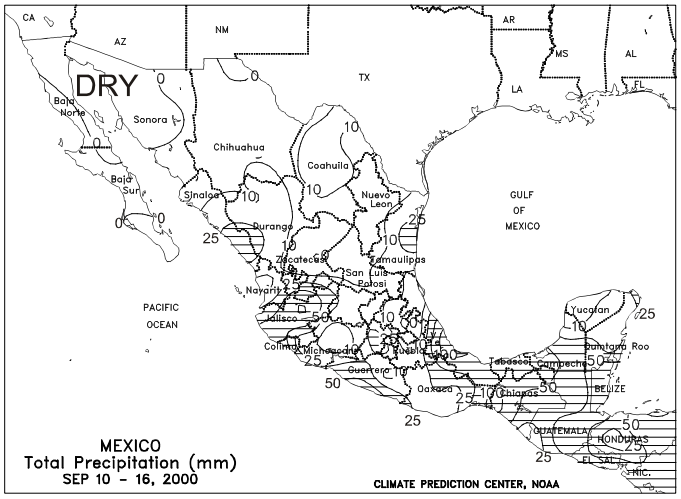
Mostly dry weather returned to winter crop areas of Western Australia and the southeast (South Australia, Victoria, and New South Wales). Temperatures averaged near to above normal, with highs reaching the low 30's degrees C in growing districts farthest from the coast. Conditions were mostly favorable for heading to filling winter grains, except for some of the driest locations in Western Australia that needed additional moisture. Winter crop harvesting progressed in southern Queensland, but rain will be needed throughout the region before summer crop planting can begin. In New Zealand, light showers (3-15 mm) covered most agricultural districts. During August, near-normal rainfall benefited vegetative winter crops across much of Western Australia. Monthly rainfall was variable in the east, with pockets of below-normal rainfall in western Victoria, southern Queensland, and northern New South Wales. The dryness in Queensland stressed rainfed grains advancing through reproduction. August temperatures averaged near normal throughout Australia's major winter crop areas, with little, if any, impact due to frost.





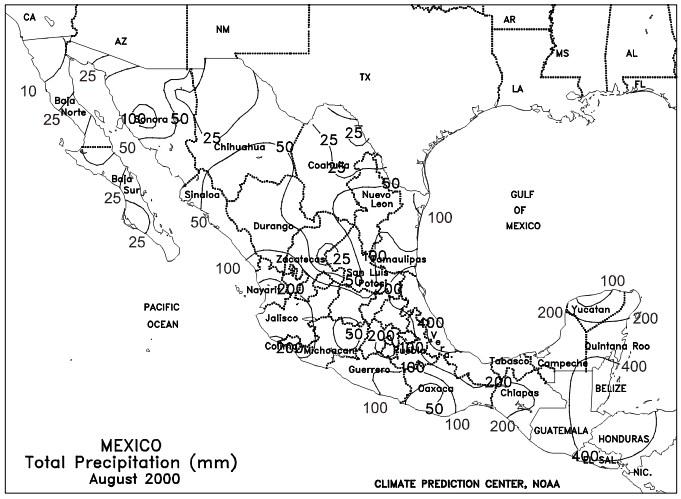


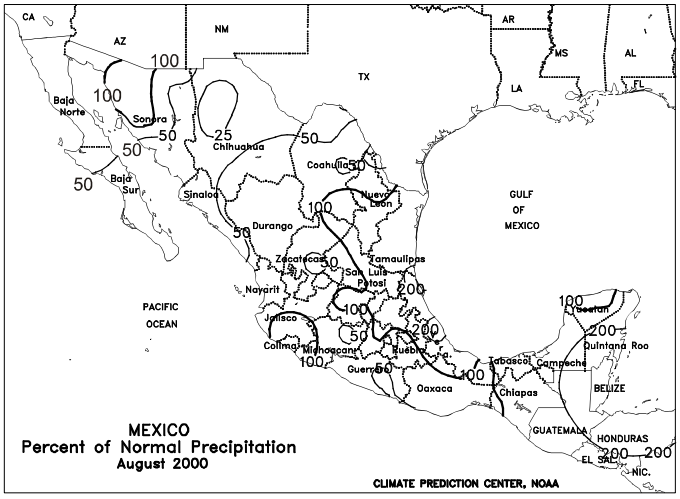


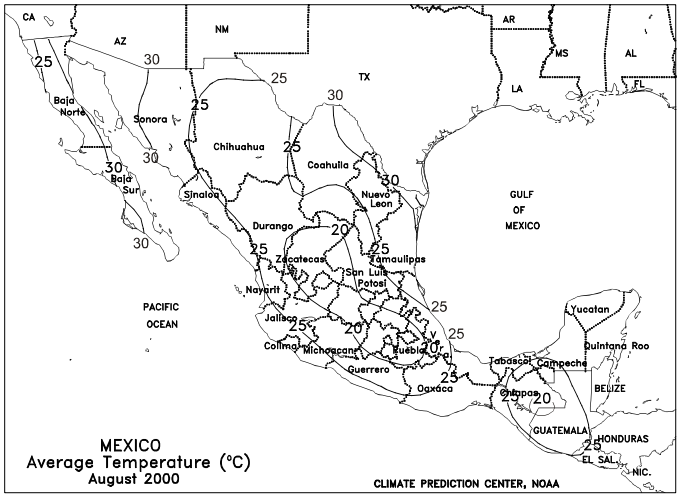


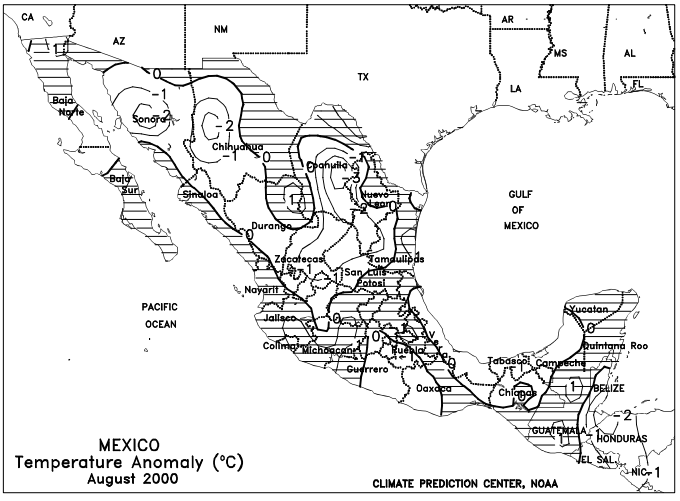
MEXICO

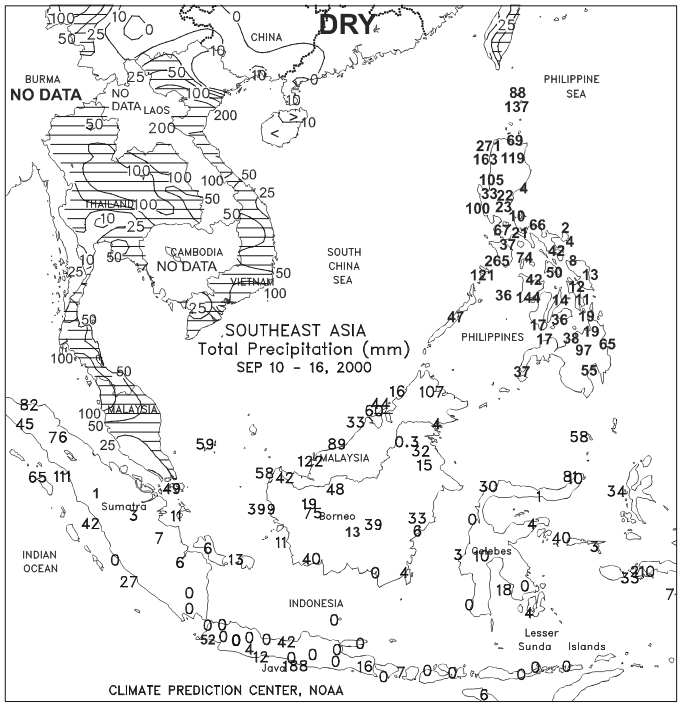
Showers (10-125 mm) increased moisture supplies for corn through the main corn belt. Widespread showers (25-100 mm) covered southeastern Mexico (Chiapas, Tabasco, and southern Campeche), but drier weather prevailed in the northern Yucatan Peninsula. Showers (10-40 mm) increased moisture supplies in the northeast and western coast (Sinaloa), while mostly dry weather was reported in the rest of northern Mexico. Temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees C above normal across most of Mexico. During August, near- to above-normal rainfall increased moisture supplies for corn and summer crops across the southern Plateau corn belt and eastern Mexico (Tamaulipas southward into Veracruz). Below-normal August rainfall prevailed in north-central Mexico, while near-normal rainfall was reported in the northwest (Sonora).





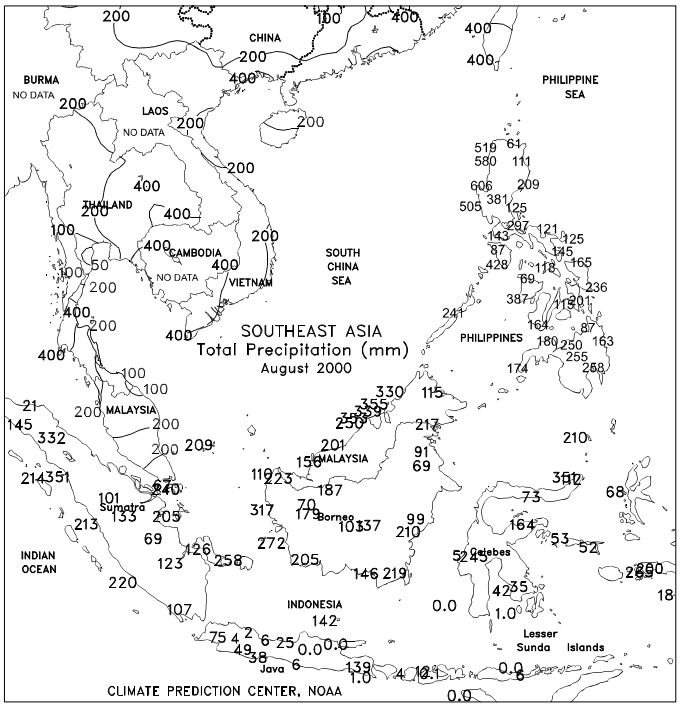


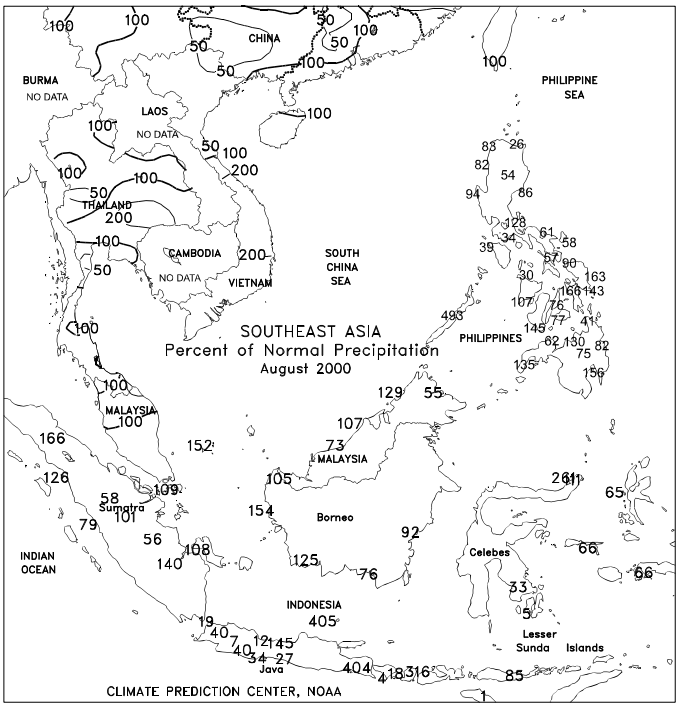


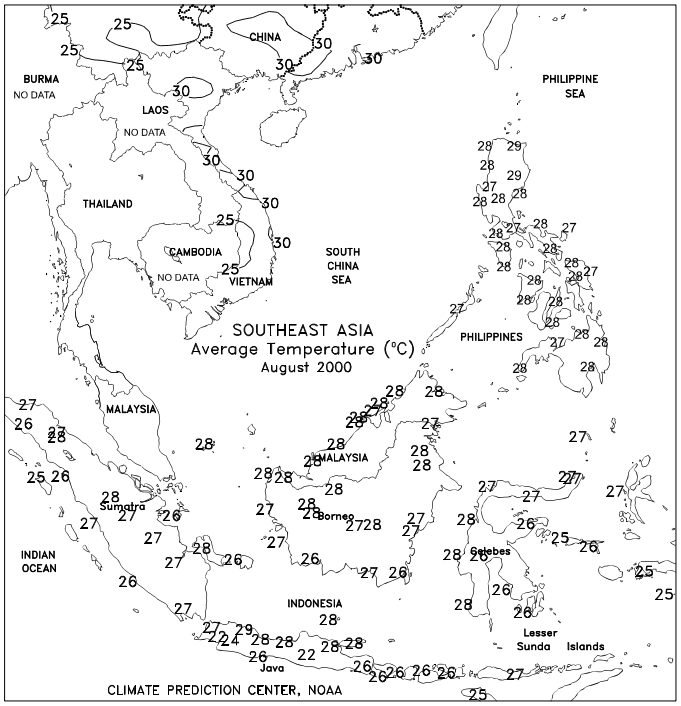


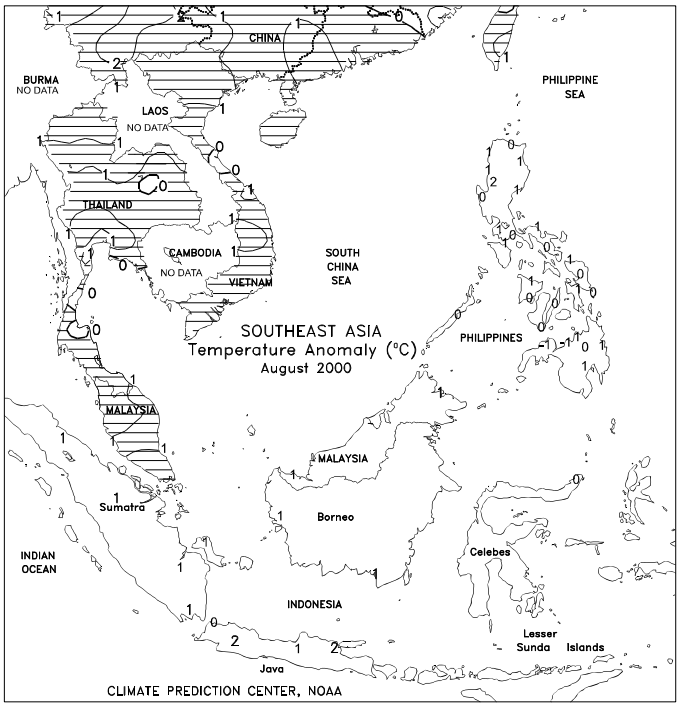
SOUTHEAST ASIA

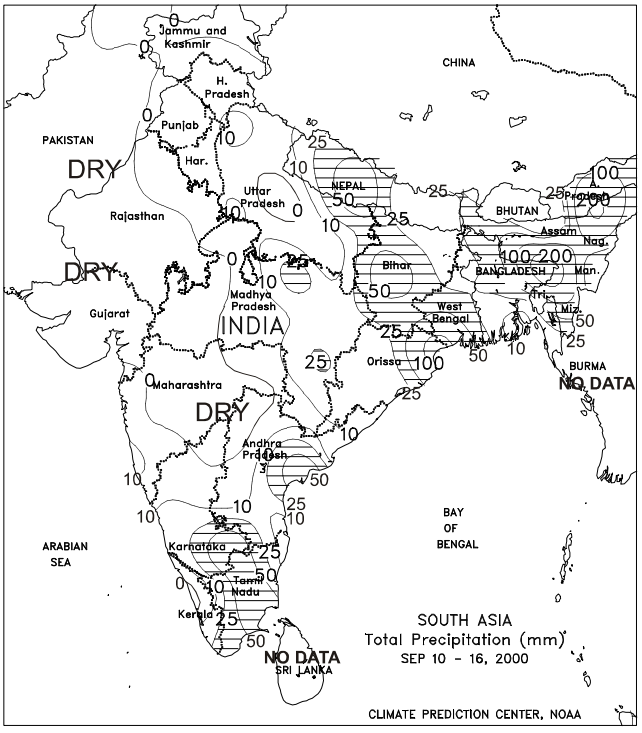
Widespread showers in Thailand and coastal Vietnam (50-150 mm), increased moisture supplies for rice. In the Philippines, heavy showers (75-200 mm) fell across western Luzon, slowing early-rice harvesting. Elsewhere, variable showers (10-100 mm) increased moisture supplies. Generally warm, dry conditions reduced moisture supplies for oil palm across peninsular Malaysia. Warm, dry weather continued across Java, Indonesia, aiding second-crop rice development. In August, near- to above-normal rainfall in Thailand increased moisture for main-season rice. Sunny weather favored rice development in northern Vietnam. Elsewhere in Vietnam, above-normal August rains caused flooding in the Mekong Delta. Across the Philippines, near- to above-normal rainfall boosted moisture supplies, but caused localized flooding in Luzon. Above-normal rainfall favored oil palm in peninsular Malaysia, while irrigation supplies were adequate for second-crop rice in Java, Indonesia.





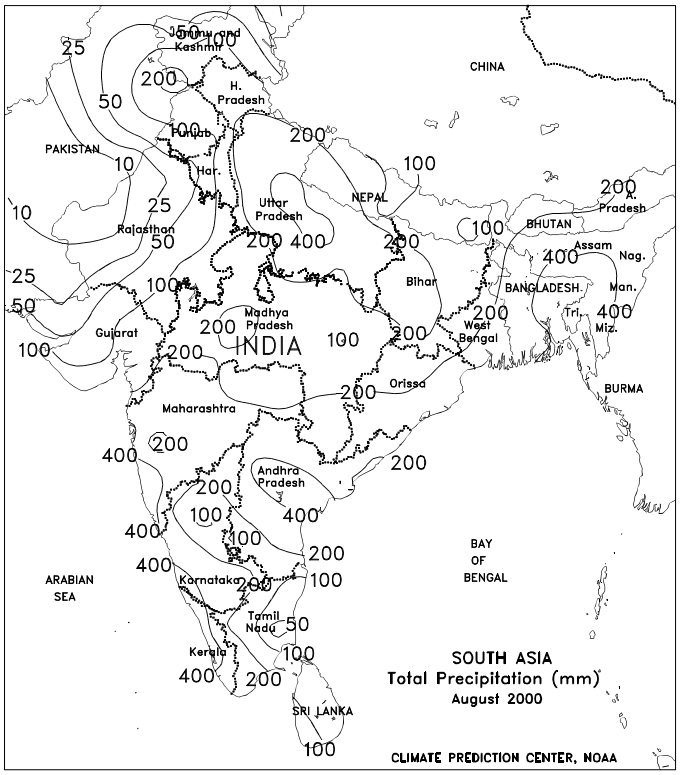






SOUTH ASIA

Unseasonable dryness expanded to cover a broad section of northwestern, central, and southern India and Pakistan, limiting moisture for reproductive to filling oilseeds, cotton, sugarcane, and coarse grains. Above-normal temperatures exacerbated the situation, with highs ranging from the middle 30's to low 40's degrees C in the affected areas. Although the rainy season typically ends during mid-September in the more northerly growing areas, monsoon activity usually lasts into October in central India, where rainfall is needed to avoid significant declines in yield potential. In contrast, moderate to heavy showers (25-100 mm or more) continued throughout primary rice areas of eastern India and Bangladesh. During August, the southwest monsoon continued to perform erratically, bringing warmer- and drier-than-normal weather to central and northern India and Pakistan. Irrigation reserves were reportedly adequate in these areas, but moisture reserves were reduced for rainfed summer crop development. In contrast, flooding continued in the northern and eastern rice belts and developed late in the month in cotton and oilseed areas of India's southern interior.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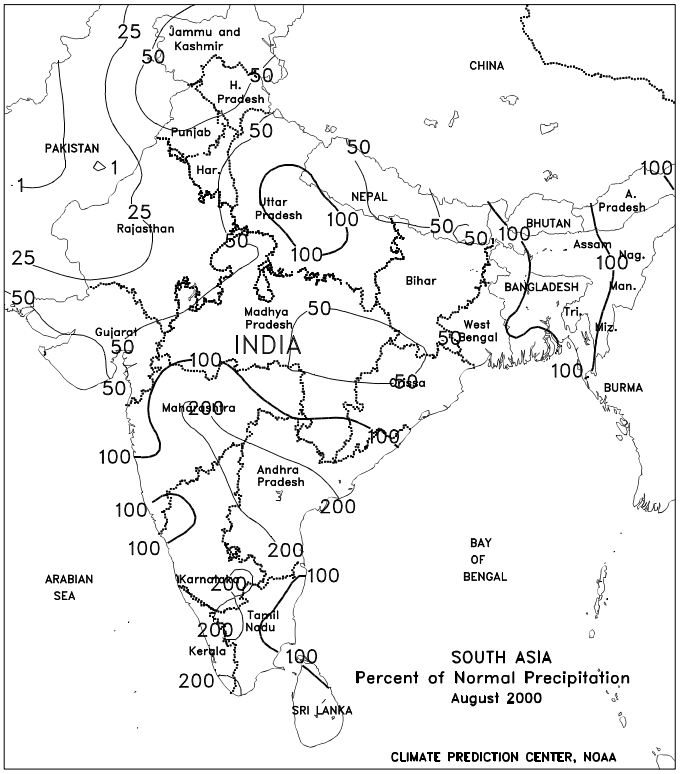
CHINA
PAKISTAN
BURMA
BANGLADESH
INDIA
SRI LANKA
ARABIAN SEA
BAY OF BENGAL
SOUTH ASIA
Total Precipitation (mm)
August 2000
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA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INDIA
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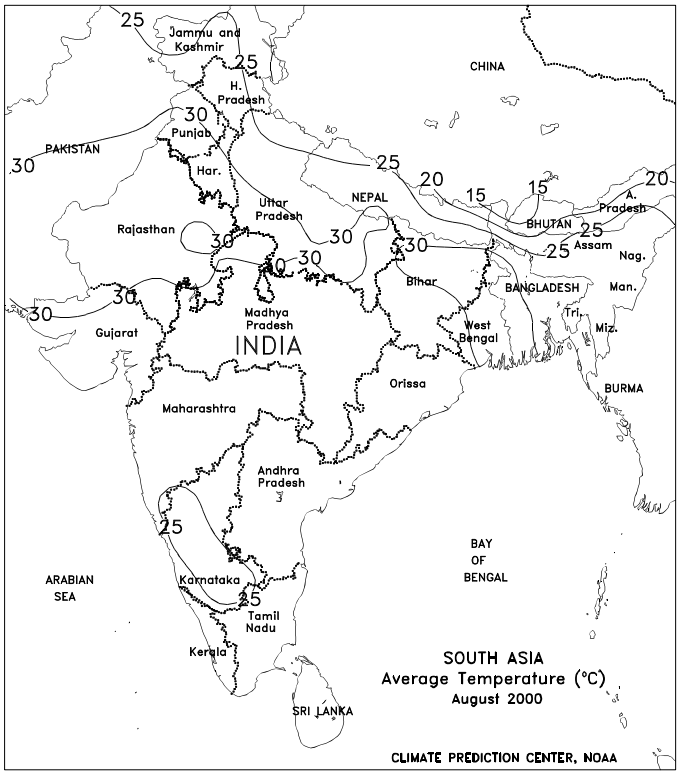
ARABIAN SEA
BAY OF BENGAL
SOUTH ASIA
Percent of Normal Precipitation
August 2000
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA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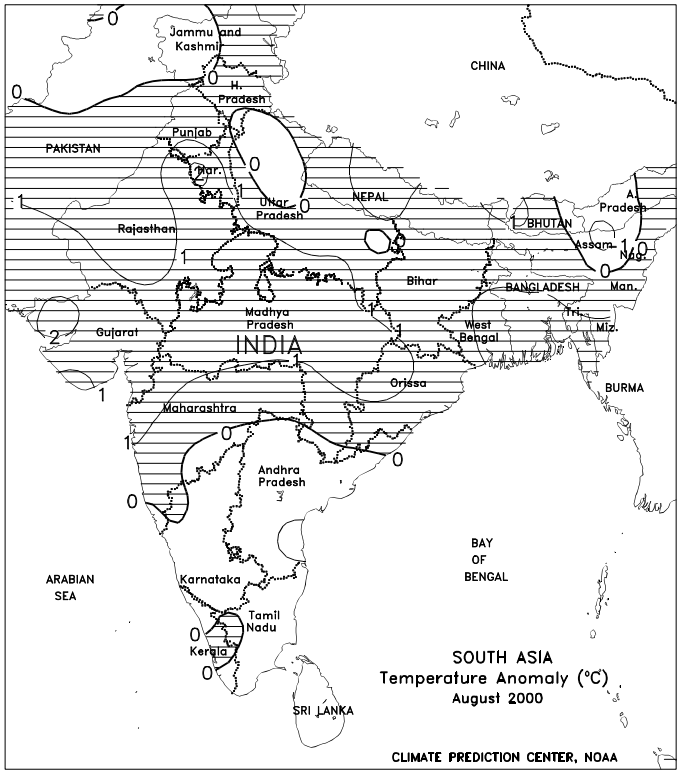
INDIA
SRI LANKA
ARABIAN SEA
BAY OF BENGAL
SOUTH ASIA
Average Temperature (°C)
August 2000
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA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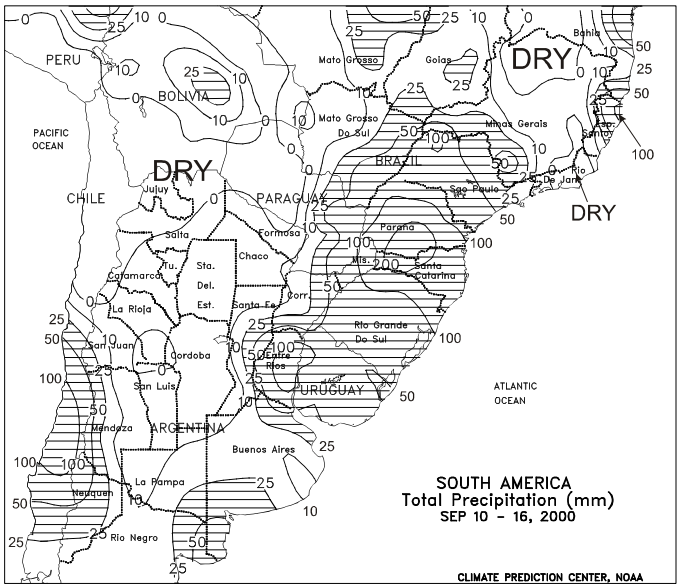
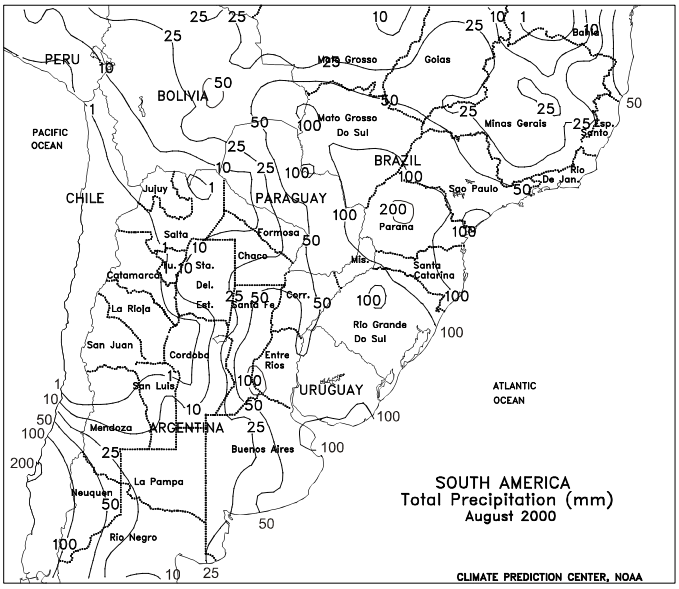
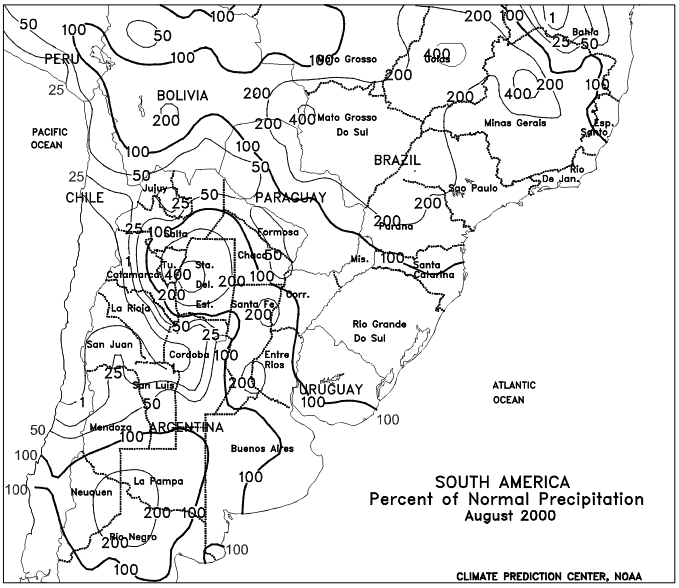
BURMA
BANGLADESH
INDIA
SRI LANKA
ARABIAN SEA
BAY OF BENGAL
SOUTH ASIA
Temperature Anomaly (°C)
August 2000
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA

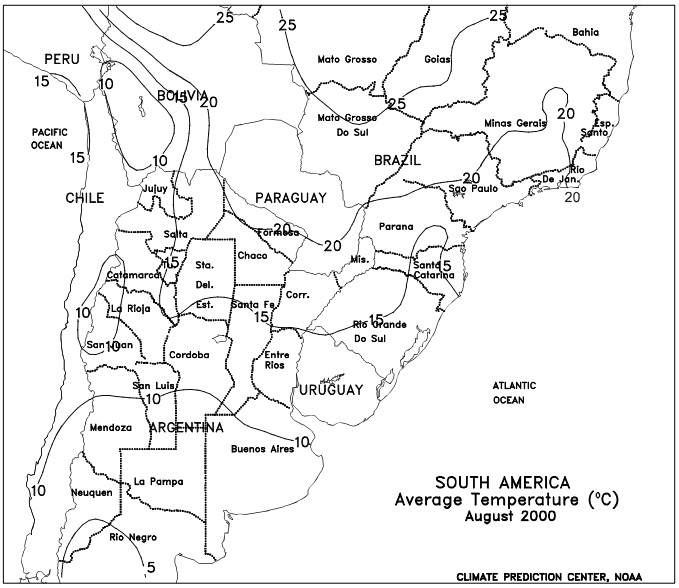


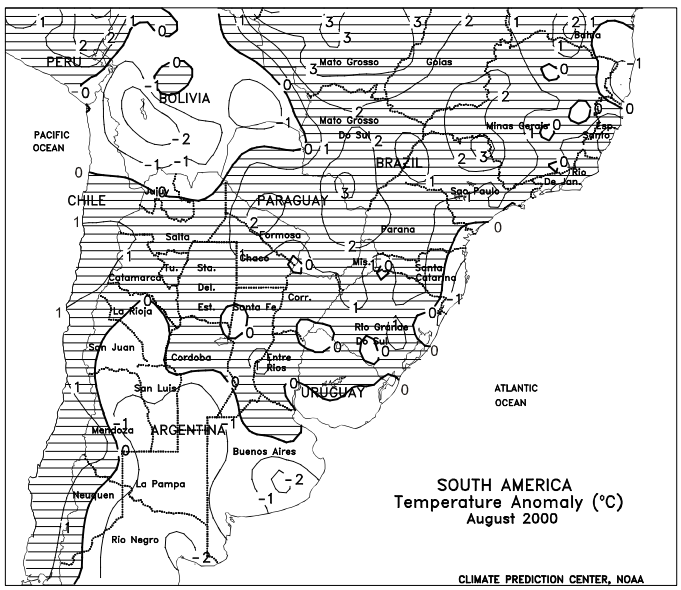
SOUTH AMERICA

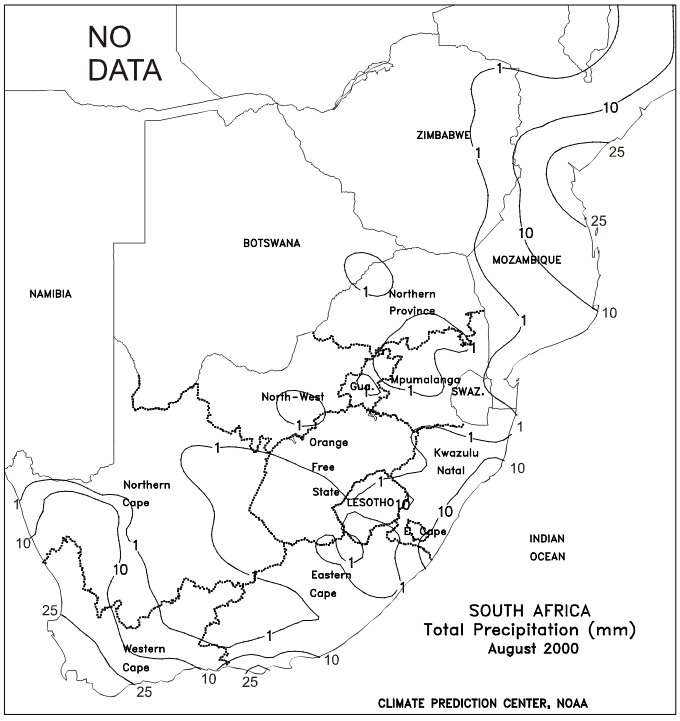
Across southern Brazil, unseasonably heavy showers (40-100 mm, with isolated amounts greater than 150 mm) extended from Rio Grande do Sul northward into western Minas Gerais. The showers boosted soil moisture supplies for summer crops and coffee and citrus flowering, but began to slow winter wheat maturation and early harvesting. Temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees C above normal across southern Brazil. In central Argentina, light to moderate rain (8-30 mm) increased topsoil moisture for vegetative winter wheat. The lightest amounts (less than 10 mm) prevailed in southern Cordoba, but the moisture was still beneficial. Temperatures averaged 2 to 5 degrees C below normal across central Argentina, with the lowest temperatures ranging from 0 to 2 degrees C confined to southern Buenos Aires and La Pampa. Widespread late-August rainfall boosted soil moisture in south-central Brazil for early corn planting, filling winter wheat, and coffee and citrus flowering. Near- to below-normal rainfall was reported in Rio Grande do Sul, but soil moisture remained adequate. During August, near- to above-normal rainfall boosted soil moisture in eastern Buenos Aires, La Pampa, and southern Santa Fe. Elsewhere in central Argentina, below-normal rainfall started to limit topsoil moisture.







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NAMIBIA
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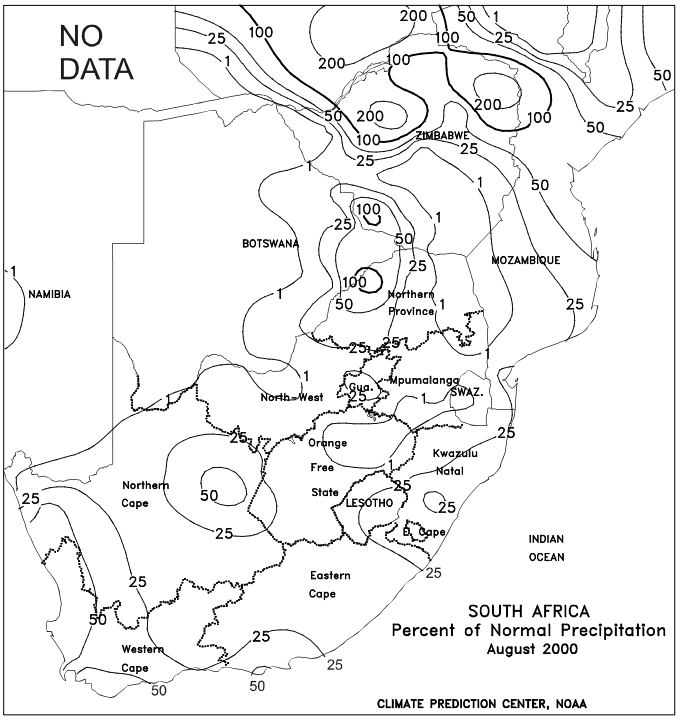
Mpumalanga
Gua.
SWAZ.
North-West
Orange Free State
Kwazulu Natal
LESOTHO
Northern Cape
E. Cape
Eastern Cape
Western Cape
INDIAN OCEAN
SOUTH AFRICA
Total Precipitation (mm)
August 2000
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA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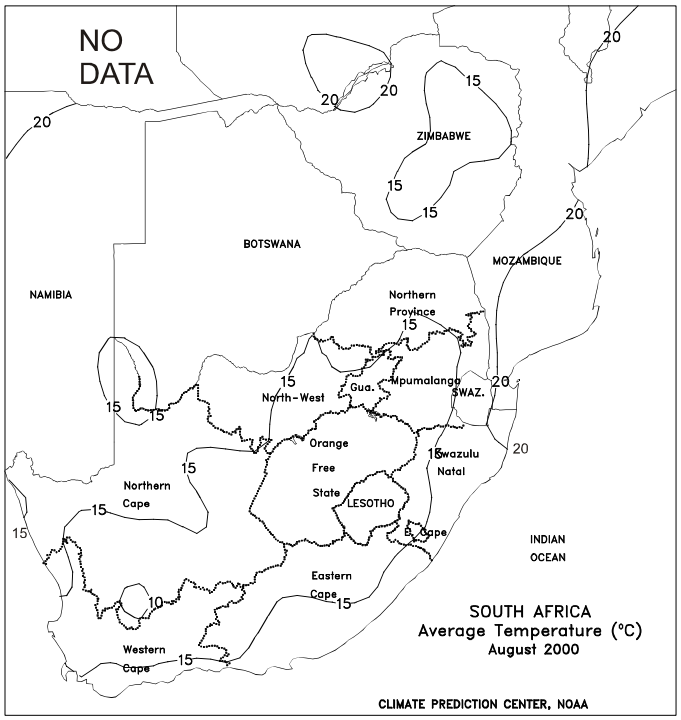
INDIAN OCEAN
SOUTH AFRICA
Percent of Normal Precipitation
August 2000
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA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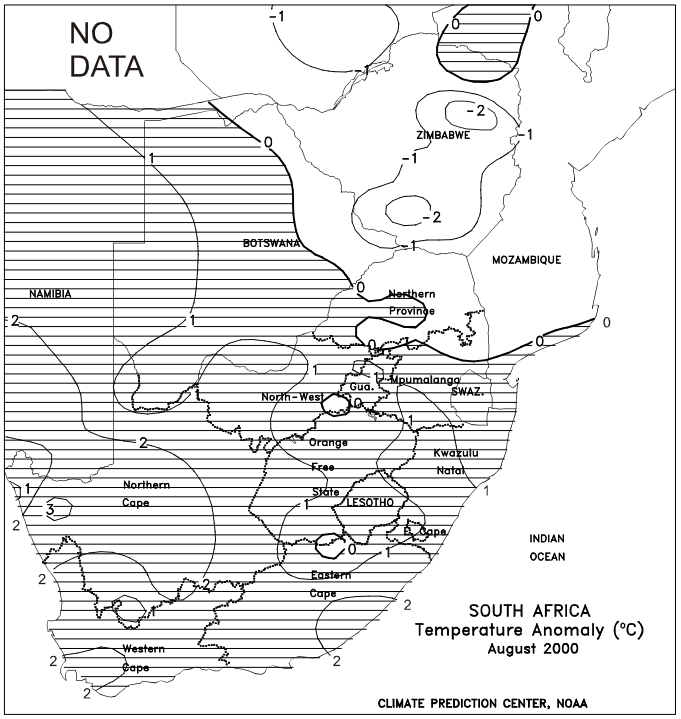
Western Cape
INDIAN OCEAN
SOUTH AFRICA
Average Temperature (°C)
August 2000
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA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INDIAN OCEAN
SOUTH AFRICA
Temperature Anomaly (°C)
August 2000
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA

MIDDLE EAST AND TURKEY

During August, scattered showers and milder weather reduced summer crop irrigation demands in parts of Turkey. Above-normal temperatures and seasonable dryness elsewhere maintained high moisture requirements, although locally heavy rain and flooding hit Iran's Caspian coast.